

## Message Text

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60

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INT-05 AF-08 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 AGR-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 USIE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 ERDA-05 OES-06 ACDA-07

L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 H-02 NRC-05 /157 W

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O R 012021Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1604

INFO USMISSION USUN

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECLA, SENV, OCON

SUBJECT: ECLA PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UN WATER CONFERENCE

REF: LIMA 7855 (NOTAL)

1. PLENARY SESSION ON AUGUST 31 HEARD FORTHRIGHT, LARGELY  
TECHNICAL STATEMENTS BY DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, CHILE, COLOMBIA,  
BOLIVIA, VENEZUELA, AND PARAGUAY.

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2. CONFERENCE SECGEN MAGEED AND ARGENTINE DEL HEAD CANO DESCRIBED PREPARATIONS FOR MAR DEL PLATA CONFERENCE, ADDING LITTLE TO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED. MAGEED INDICATED THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD PREPARE CONSOLIDATED SET OF ACTION PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONGRESS AS WHOLE. HE REITERATED INTENT TO CREATE TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WATER CONFERENCE ON BASIS OF SAFE DRINKING WATER GOALS DEFINED BY HABITAT. HE SEES CONSIDERABLE CONNECTION AS WELL FROM WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND (FUTURE) CONFERENCES ON (A) TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG LDC'S, AND (B) DESERTIFICATION. HE STATED THAT WATER AND DESERTIFICATION SECRETARIATS WERE IN CLOSE TOUCH. CANO HINTED BUENOS AIRES LOCALE FOR EXPOSITION COULD BE CHANGED; HE ALSO PROVIDED FURTHER DATA ON ORGANIZING COMMITTEES FOR TECHNICAL SEMINARS. (WE WILL POUCH THIS AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THIS MEETING.)

3. PANAMA (HERRERA MARCUCCI) FOLLOWED LINE OF NATIONAL PAPER. WHILE ADMITTING COUNTRY HAD EXTENSIVE UNDERUTILIZED WATER RESOURCES, HE MADE CASE FOR NEAR FUTURE INCREASING NEEDS OF PANAMA CITY AND COLON FOR WATER. HE STATED THAT PANAMA WAS ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHICH HAD ONE OF ITS OWN MAJOR HYDRO RESOURCES (CHARGES RIVER) BEING USED TO BENEFIT OTHER COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY "POWERFUL COUNTRY" WITHOUT IT HAVING ANY SAY. WHILE APPARENTLY ACCEPTING NEED TO USE WATER IN CANAL FOR SHIP PASSAGE, IMPRESSION HE TRIED TO CREATE WAS THAT PANAMIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THESE WATER RESOURCES WOULD PERMIT BETTER FULFILLMENT OF FUTURE NEEDS OF ITS MAJOR CITIES FOR POTABLE WATER. WITH LWSS STRESS, HE ALSO CLAIMED PANAMA'S RESOURCES WERE SUBSIDIZING U.S. ECONOMY WITH HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATED FROM CHAGRES-ORIGIN WATER AND CITED PROBLEMS (OR POTENTIAL PROBLEMS) OF CONTAMINATION OF PANAMANIAN WATERS BY SHIPS, INCLUDING TANKERS, TRAVERSING CANAL AS WELL AS RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION FROM NUCLEAR ELECTRIC GENERATION PLANTS. HE URGED MEETING TO ADOPT RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OF PANAMA NATIONAL PAPER URGING EARLY CONCLUSION OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AND RECOGNIZING PANAMA'S INALIENABLE RIGHT TO USE OF ITS OWN WATER RESOURCES.

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4. U.S. (WILCOX), SPEAKING NEXT, GAVE GENERAL ENDORSEMENT TO PREPARATORY WORK FOR WATER CONFERENCE TO DATE AND DESCRIBED U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE, WHILE INDICATING THAT MAJOR U.S. INPUT TO CONFERENCE WOULD BE MADE AT LATER STAGE IN PREPARATORY PROCESS. HE INDICATED OUR INTEREST IN LEARNING OF ALTIN AND CARIBBEAN REGION'S WATER NEEDS, AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE HABITAT SAFE DRINKING WATER RECOMMENDATION AND U.S. WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN

AD HOC TASK FORCE ON THIS. U.S. STATED REGRET OVER INTRUSION BY PANAMA OF WHAT WAS PRIMARILY BILATERAL ISSUE. HE NOTED KISSINGER-BOYD JUNE 9 JOINT STATEMENT THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND INDICATED TREATY BEST LEFT TO DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO NOTED FURTHER THAT THIS ONLY ONE OF MANY REGIONAL AND WORLDWIDE BILATERAL OR SUB-REGIONAL CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WHICH COULD SORELY DAMAGE WATER CONFERENCE IF ALLOWED TO BECOME FOCUS OF DISCUSSION IN LIMA OR MAR DEL PLATA AND URGED CONCENTRATION ON IMPORTANT, EVEN URGENT, GLOBAL WATER ISSUES. STATEMENT BEING POUCHED IO/CMD (KAHN).

5. CUBA (ALVAREZ RODRIGUEZ), SPEAKING NEXT, GAVE GENERALLY FACTUAL PRESENTATION ON CUBAN WATER SITUATION AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION. AT THE END, HE STATED HIS DELEGATION'S SUPPORT FOR PANAMANIAN RECOMMENDATION.

6. WORKING GROUP BEGAN ITS WORK AND IN LOW-KEY FASHION DEALT ON TECHNICAL BASIS WITH MATERIALS PROVIDED BY SECRETARIAT RELATIVE TO ACTION PROPOSALS AT NATIONAL LEVEL.

7. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT, WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT SURE HOW PANAMANIAN PITCH WILL FARE. GIVEN PRESENT POLITICAL LEANINGS OF REGION, CUBAN SUPPORT LIKELY TO DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. LATIN SOLIDARITY WITH PANAMA ON CANAL ISSUE WILL BE UP AGAINST STRONG DESIRE TO MAKE POSITIVE SUCCESS OF LIMA MEETING AND OF WATER CONFERENCE ITSELF, WHICH SEEMS PARTICULARLY STRONG WITH PERUVIAN HOSTS, AS WELL AS WITH ARGENTINA AND PERHAPS PARAGUAY. BEHIND THE SCENES, SECRETARIAT AND OTHERS WORKING HARD TO KEEP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BILATERAL ISSUES OUT OF "ACTION PROPOSALS" RESULTING FROM THIS MEETING. AT THIS POINT, WE ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THEY MAY SUCCEED, WITH PANAMANIAN INTERESTS BEING ASSUAGED IN VERY GENERAL STATEMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER ONE'S OWN RESOURCES. SMITH

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